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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ptomail1@bakerbotts.com
glenda.orrantia@bakerbotts.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,067

Applicant(s)

VINBERG, ANDERS

Examiner

PHILIP C. LEE

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11,13,15 and 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11,13,15 and 17-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/23/08, 2/27/08
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. This action is responsive to the amendment and remarks filed on April 21, 2008.
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/20/08 has been entered.
3. Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 15 and 17-24 are presented for examination, and claims 2, 12, 14 and 16 are canceled.
4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. code not included in this office action can be found in a prior office action.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which

was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. As per claims 1 (lines 5-7), 13 (lines 7-9) and 15 (lines 6-9), although the specification described “subsystems in the IT enterprise”, however, the disclosure does not describe each (assuming it refers to subsystem) performing an associated one or more information technology management operations that are *distinct from the one ore more information technology management operations performed by the other subsystems*.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 15 and 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. The following terms lack proper antecedent basis:

i. the other subsystems – claims 1, 13 and 15.

b. Claim language in the following claims is not clearly understood:

ii. As per claim 1, line 5, it is unclear what is “each” referring to?

iii. As per claim 3, lines 2-3, the scope and metes and bounds are indefinite.

Since the phrases “that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand” and “more easily understood” are editorial, it is unclear what is considered as likely to be difficult or more easily understood.

iv. As per claim 13, line 4, the scope and metes and bounds are indefinite.

Since the phrase “operable to” is not a requirement that it is performed, therefore it renders limitations after the phrase “operable to” are to be moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

8. Claims 1, 4, 13, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward et al, U.S. Patent 5,367,670 (hereinafter Ward) and Lewis et al, U.S. Patent 6,603,396 (hereinafter Lewis) in view of Lohmann II et al, U.S. Patent 5,745,692 (hereinafter Lohmann).

9. Ward, Lewis and Lohmann were cited in the previous office action.

10. As per claims 1, 13 and 15, Ward teaches the invention substantially as claimed comprising:

detecting an alert condition identifying a problem with a system component (col. 5, lines 15-20), the alert condition being detected in response to an event notification (col. 12, lines 24-26, 34-37) associated with at least one of a plurality of heterogeneous subsystems (col. 5, lines 13-20; col. 7, lines 1-8) each performing an associated one or more information technology management operations that are distinct from the one or more information technology management operations performed by the other subsystems (col. 5, lines 51-65) (e.g., asynchronous serial port, computer system bus 13 reports signal utilized for object management to indicate alert, and intelligent disk array controller reports read errors (col. 7, lines 1-8));

determining a notification path associated with the alert condition, the notification path being determined based at least on a property of an object associated with the alert condition (col. 5, lines 21-27), the object being stored in an object repository (col. 4, lines 8-13; col. 12, lines 12-20);

constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition (col. 5, lines 21-32; col. 7, lines 56-57; col. 9, lines 11-14; col. 12, lines 34-64); and

outputting the audio notification message via the notification path (col. 7, lines 25-57; col. 12, lines 62-64).

11. Ward does not teach filtering alert condition. Lewis teaches filtering alert condition to determine a notification path associated with the alert condition (col. 6, lines 40-49; col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 34).

12. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward and Lewis because Lewis's teaching would allow Ward's system to filter irrelevant alarms in order to maximize performance and reliability of the system (col. 7, lines 59-65).

13. Ward and Lewis do not teach an audio command. Lohmann teaches a similar invention comprising: receiving an audio command (col. 2, lines 7-8; col. 5, lines 44-46; col. 6, lines 4-9); processing the audio command to derive command data (col. 2, lines 8-9; col. 6, lines 4-12);

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constructing a command based on the command data (col. 2, lines 8-9; col. 9, lines 40-42); and storing the command in the object repository (col. 2, lines 6-12; col. 9, lines 17-27, 43-45) (stores and processes the command).

14. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann because Lohmann's teaching of audio command would increase the capability of Ward's and Lewis's system by allowing a system administrator respond to the alert message via voice commands (col. 1, lines 22-26; col. 4, lines 58-61).

15. As per claim 4, Ward, Lewis and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward further teach wherein detecting an alert condition includes detecting an alert condition within a plurality of subsystems of a network management application (col. 7, lines 19-24).

16. As per claim 20, Ward, Lewis and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Lohmann further teach constructing an additional audio notification message if the audio notification message is not responded to within a designated time limit (abstract; col. 1, lines 52-61).

17. Claims 9, 17, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis and Lohmann in view of Cote et al, U.S. Patent 6,021,262 (hereinafter Cote).

18. Cote was cited in the previous office action.

19. As per claim 9, Ward, Lewis and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Although Ward teaches wherein the determining the notification path includes analyzing a parameter associated with the alert condition and selecting the notification path based on the parameter (col. 5, lines 33-45; col. 7, lines 19-27); and the audio notification message is output via the notification path (col. 7, lines 25-57), however, Ward, Lewis and Lohmann do not teach a multi-tiered notification path. Cote teaches a similar invention comprising: a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition (col. 7, lines 19-28).

20. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote because Cote's teaching of multi-tiered notification path would increase the user's flexibility of Ward's, Lewis's and Lohmann's systems by allowing the user to control how and when others are to be so notified (col. 2, lines 25-36).

21. As per claim 17, Ward, Lewis and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward, Lewis and Lohmann do not teach a multi-tiered notification path. Cote teaches comprising a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the notification path identifying

one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition (col. 7, lines 19-28); and identifying the occurrence of a prior alert condition that was not responded to, the multi-tier notification path being determined based at least in part on the occurrence of the prior alert condition (col. 7, lines 19-27).

22. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote because Cote's teaching of multi-tiered notification path would increase the user's flexibility of Ward's, Lewis's and Lohmann's systems by allowing the user to control how and when others are to be so notified (col. 2, lines 25-36).

23. As per claim 21, Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann do not teach constructing an additional audio notification if the alert condition is not addressed within a time limit. Cote teaches comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the alert condition is not addressed within a designated time limit (col. 7, lines 17-27).

24. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote because Cote's teaching of multi-tiered notification path would increase the user's flexibility of Ward's, Lewis's and Lohmann's systems by allowing the user to control how and when others are to be so notified (col. 2, lines 25-36).

25. As per claim 22, Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Although Ward teaches the audio notification is output via the notification path (col. 7, lines 25-57), however Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann do not teach multi-tiered notification path. Cote teaches a similar invention comprising: a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition (col. 7, lines 19-28); and filtering the notification message such that at least one user on the multi-tiered notification path does not receive the notification message (col. 7, lines 19-27) (i.e. the manager (notification path) does not receive the notification message).

26. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote because Cote's teaching of multi-tiered notification path would increase the user's flexibility of Ward's, Lewis's and Lohmann's systems by allowing the user to control how and when others are to be so notified (col. 2, lines 25-36).

27. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis and Lohmann in view of Fischer, U.S. Patent 4,881,197 (hereinafter Fischer).

28. Fischer was cited in the last office action.

29. As per claim 5, Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward, Lewis and Lohmann do not teach defining audio characteristics. Fischer teaches defining audio characteristics associated with the audio notification message (col. 3, lines 38-42; col. 4, lines 3-21; col. 8, lines 31-45).

30. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Fischer because Fischer's teaching of defining audio characteristics would increase the user's flexibility of Ward's, Lewis's and Lohmann's systems by allowing a user with a flexible and efficient mechanism for simultaneously utilizing the highlighting features distinctive to each particular device on which the document or message is displayed or produced (col. 4, lines 3-7).

31. As per claim 6, Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Fischer teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 5 above. Fischer further teach wherein the audio characteristic is a volume (col. 3, lines 38-42; col. 4, lines 3-21; col. 8, lines 31-45).

32. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Fischer for the same reason set forth in claim 5 above.

33. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann in view of Sabourin et al, U.S. Patent 6,037,099 (hereinafter Sabourin).

34. Sabourin was cited in the last office action.

35. As per claim 3, Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann do not teach identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult to understand. Sabourin teaches wherein constructing an audio notification message includes identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood synonym (col. 10, line 60-col. 11, lines 8).

36. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Sabourin because Sabourin's teaching of identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult to understand would increase the alertness in Ward's, Lewis's and Lohmann's systems by allowing the system to find and replace words that tend to cause high confusability (col. 10, line 60-col. 11, line 8).

37. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis and Lohmann in view of Miller et al, U.S. Patent 6,421,707 (hereinafter Miller).

38. Miller was cited in the last office action.

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39. As per claim 8, Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann do not teach the audio message presented in accordance with a filter. Miller teaches wherein the audio messages presented in accordance with a filter (col. 6, lines 30-40).

40. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Miller because Miller's teaching of audio messages presented in accordance with a filter would increase the user's flexibility in Ward's, Lewis's and Lohmann's systems by allowing a user to determine how individual or groups of messages are handled, depending upon characteristics of the messages themselves (col. 6, lines 31-33).

41. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann in view of Goldberg et al, U.S. Patent 6,161,082 (hereinafter Goldberg).

42. Goldberg was cited in the last office action.

43. As per claim 11, Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann do not teach audio message based on language preference. Goldberg teaches wherein constructing the audio notification message includes:

determining a user associated with the audio notification message (col. 3, lines 34-56; col. 5, lines 22-24);

determining a language preference associated with the user (col. 3, lines 34-56; col. 5, lines 1-13, 25-34; col. 6, lines 27-28); and

constructing the audio message based on the language preference (col. 3, lines 34-56; col. 6, lines 34-38).

44. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Goldberg because Goldberg's teaching of audio message based on the language preference would increase the functionality of Ward's, Lewis's, and Lohmann's systems by providing supports to multiple user and to translate communication inputs that are received in any of a wide variety of languages into communication outputs that are transmitted in any of a wide variety of languages (col. 2, lines 45-50).

45. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Fischer in view of "Official Notice".

46. As per claim 7, Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Fischer teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 5 above. Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Fischer do not specifically detailing different audio characteristics. "Official Notice" is taken for the concept of a balance as an audio characteristic is known and accepted in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include balance as an audio

characteristic because by doing so would increase the user's flexibility by allowing a user to include any type of audio characteristics as a design choice.

47. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann in view of Cote and further in view of Carleton, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0044840 (hereinafter Carleton).

48. Carleton was cited in the last office action.

49. As per claim 10, Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 9 above. Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote do not teach an escalation list. Carleton teaches wherein determining the notification path includes analyzing an escalation list (page 1, paragraph 9; page 3, paragraph 53).

50. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann, Cote and Carleton because Carleton's teaching of escalation list would increase the alertness of their systems by providing a mechanism by which a problem can receive increasing levels of attention to expedite and assure proper remediation (page 1, paragraph 9).

51. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann in view of Cote, and further in view of Jones et al, U. S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0210469 (hereinafter Jones).

52. Jones was cited in the last office action.

53. As per claims 18 and 19, Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward, Lewis and Lohmann do not teach a multi-tiered notification path. Cote teaches a similar invention comprising: a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition (col. 7, lines 19-28).

54. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote because Cote's teaching of multi-tiered notification path would increase the user's flexibility of Ward's, Lewis's and Lohmann's systems by allowing the user to control how and when others are to be so notified (col. 2, lines 25-36).

55. Ward, Lewis, Lohmann, and Cote do not teach assigning the level of responsibility based upon the severity of the alert. Jones teaches assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more user based upon the severity of the alert condition (severity of the work repair associated with a component) (page 2, paragraphs 29 and 33; page 9, paragraph 119).

56. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann, Cote and Jones because Jones's teaching of assigning the level of responsibility based upon the severity (severity of the work repair associated with a component) would increase the flexibility of their systems by controlling which management level or personnel will receive the alerting message based on the escalation level (page 3, paragraph 45).

57. Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Lewis, Lohmann, Cote and in view of Lawson et al, U. S. Patent 6,185,613 (hereinafter Lawson).

58. Lawson was cited in the last office action.

59. As per claim 23, Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 22 above. Ward, Lewis, Lohmann and Cote do not teach filtering based on a property associated with an object associated with the alert condition. Lawson teaches comprising filtering the notification message based on a property associated with an object associated with the alert condition (col. 5, lines 35-53).

60. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Lewis, Lohmann, Cote and Lawson because Lawson's teaching of filtering based on a property associated with an object associated

with the alert condition would increase the efficiency of their system by allowing a event consumer to prevent notification of irrelevant event (col. 5, lines 35-37).

61. As per claim 24, Ward, Lewis, Lohmann, Cote and Lawson teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 23 above. Although Lawson teaches wherein the property is selected from the group consisting of a type of the object (col. 5, lines 35-53), a name of the object (col. 10, lines 33-37), a location of the object (col. 5, lines 35-53), the time of day (col. 16, lines 34-35), and any of the information available in the packet (col. 24, lines 36-41), however, Ward, Lewis, Lohmann, Cote and Lawson do not specifically teach the severity of the alert condition, a level of risk, and an importance assigned to the object. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include different type of property such as severity, level of risk and importance of the object because by doing so it would increase the field of use in their system.

62. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-11, 13, 15 and 17-24, filed 3/20/08, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

63. In the remarks, applicant argued that:

- (1) Ward-Lewis-Lohmann combination fails to teach filtering the alert condition to determine a notification path associated with the alert condition, the notification path being determined based at least on a property of an object associated with the alert condition, the object being

stored in an object repository.

(2) At least because the proposed Ward-Lewis-Lohmann combination fails to teach filtering the alert condition to determine a notification path associated with the alert condition, the notification path being determined based at least on a property of an object associated with the alert condition, the object being stored in an object repository as recited in claim 1, the proposed combination necessarily fails to teach outputting the audio notification message *via the notification path*.

(3) The combination of Ward-Lewis-Lohmann fails to teach the alert condition being detected in response to an event notification associated with at least one of a plurality of heterogeneous subsystems each performing an associated one or more information technology management operations that are distinct from the one or more information technology management operations performed by the other subsystems.

(4) examiner has not provided adequate reason, either in the cited references or in the knowledge general available to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify or combine Ward, Lewis, and Lohmann.

(5) The combination of Ward-Lewis-Lohmann-Sabourin fails to teach wherein constructing an audio notification message includes identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood

synonym.

(6) Ward-Lewis-Lohmann-Cote-Jones combination fails to teach the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition; and the method further comprises assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon a type of object associated with the alert condition.

64. In response to point (1), applicant's argument has been considered and addressed to in the final office action mailed on 12/20/07.

65. In response to point (2), since the combination of Ward-Lewis-Lohmann teaches the limitation argued in point 1 above (as explained in the previous office action), the combination does not *necessarily* fail to teach "outputting the audio notification message *via the notification path*". Specifically, Ward teaches outputting the audio notification message via the notification path (col. 7, lines 25-57; col. 12, lines 62-64).

66. In response to point (3), Ward teaches as events are detected, the EISA monitor 110 provides information relating to the object manager for updating the innate objects corresponding to the event (col. 12, lines 24-26). For each update, increment or decrement, the object manager 106 will, in the event that a boundary or threshold has been exceeded, determine that an alert needs to be issued (col. 12, lines 34-37). Ward teaches monitoring various system components

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(col. 5, lines 13-20) such as asynchronous serial port, the computer system bus 13, and the intelligent disk array controller device 26 (col. 5, lines 51-65; col. 7, lines 1-8). This means the alert condition (alert needs to be issued) being detected in response to an event notification (detected event that provides information to the object manager for update) associated with at least one of a plurality of heterogeneous subsystems (monitoring associated with various system components such as asynchronous serial port, the computer system bus 13, and the intelligent disk array controller device 26). Ward further teach the computer system bus 13 reports signal utilized for object management to indicate alert (col. 5, lines 51-65) (i.e., information technology management operation), and the intelligent disk array controller device 26 reports the number of read errors that have occurred (col. 7, lines 1-8) (i.e., information technology management operation distinct from the information technology management operation performed by the computer system bus).

67. In response to point (4), applicant's argument has been considered and addressed to in the final office action mailed on 12/20/07.

68. In response to point (5), Ward teaches constructing an audio notification message (col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 12, lines 52-64) (generating a voice message comprising the alert). Ward does not teach identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood synonym. Sabourin teaches automatically find word pairs (identifying a portion of the message) that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand (tend to cause high confusability) and replacing the identified portion

with a more easily understood synonym (replacing confusable words with non-confusable synonyms) (col. 10, line 64-col. 11, line 3). Therefore, the combination of Ward and Sabourin teaches constructing an audio notification message includes identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood synonym.

69. In response to point (6), Ward, Lewis and Lohmann do not teach a multi-tiered notification path. Cote teaches a similar invention comprising: a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition (col. 7, lines 19-28). Ward, Lewis, Lohmann, and Cote do not teach assigning the level of responsibility based upon the severity of the alert. Jones teaches assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more user based upon the severity of the work repair (work repair associated with a component such as private line [0047], i.e., type of object associated with the alert condition) (page 2, paragraphs 29 and 33; page 9, paragraph 119). This means Jones teaches assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more user based upon a type of object associated with the alert condition (work repair associated with a component (e.g., private line) associated with the alert condition). It is noted that the scope and metes and bounds of the phrase “a type of object” covers objects such as “severity of the work repair associated with a component” or any type of objects. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Jones (i.e., object such as severity of the work repair associated with a component such as a

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private line) with Ward (i.e., object as such system component) for the reason as stated in claims 19 above.

70. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip C Lee whose telephone number is (571)272-3967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM TO 5:30 PM Monday to Thursday and every other Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Philip C Lee/

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2152